

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, January 7, 2005

PRELIMINARY STATISTICS SHOW A SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN CRIME DURING 2004

Preliminary statistics released by the MPDC indicate the number of serious crimes reported to the police during 2004 declined by 11.5 percent, when matched against comparable numbers for 2003. This follows a nearly 9 percent drop in serious crime between 2002 and 2003. Preliminary data for 2004 show that crime was down last year in all major crime categories and in all seven police districts. Citywide, violent crime fell 14 percent in 2004, driven by a 20 percent drop in homicide and a 30 percent reduction in sexual assault. Property crime declined by 11 percent last year, which included double-digit reductions in burglary, theft from auto, stolen auto and arson. According to preliminary data, the Sixth Police District recorded a 24 percent drop in serious crime, including a 29 percent reduction in stolen auto, which has been a serious concern in 6D. Both the Fourth and Seventh Districts achieved 10 percent reductions in serious crime during 2004. For the month of December 2004, serious crime fell by 12 percent citywide, with reductions in six of the seven districts, according to preliminary statistics.

① Preliminary crime data for December, which includes the year-end totals, can be viewed for each of the seven districts and the city as a whole by going to:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats_readthis.shtml

① All preliminary offenses are coded based on DC criminal code and not FBI offense classifications. Preliminary statistics are subject to change due to a variety of reasons, such as a change in classification, the determination that certain offense reports were unfounded, or late reporting. Any comparisons between MPDC preliminary data and the official crime statistics published by the FBI under the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program are inaccurate and misleading.

MPDC LOOKING FOR MORE THAN A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN AT CAREER EXPO ON JANUARY 29

Although it has reached its fully authorized strength of 3,800 sworn members, the MPDC is still actively recruiting qualified police officer candidates in its ongoing efforts to keep up with attrition. The Department's 2004-2005 recruiting season continues with a Career Expo on Saturday, January 29, 2005, from 9 am to 5 pm, at the Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW. Recruiters will be on hand to discuss career opportunities in the MPDC with both entry-level candidates and experienced officers from other agencies who are interested in joining the MPDC through its lateral-hire program. Interested applicants can complete application forms and take the written police test on-site at the Expo. The event also offers prospective police officers and their families an inside look at the MPDC. Representatives from many of the Department's patrol and specialized enforcement units will be on hand to discuss and demonstrate their latest equipment, training and techniques. Specialized recruiting resources for female, Asian, Latino, and gay and lesbian candidates will also be available. Information about civilian positions in the MPDC will also be available.

① For more details on Career Expo 2005, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/expo2005.shtml>

① Police officer candidates must have obtained at least 60 semester hours of college credits—roughly the equivalent of two years of higher education. Details on the minimum requirements can be found at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/pominimum.shtml>

① Learn more about career opportunities in the MPDC—both sworn and civilian—at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ.shtml>

MPDC TESTS FOUR NEW STATIONARY PHOTO RADAR CAMERAS

Motorists are advised that on Monday, January 10, the MPDC begins final testing of four new stationary photo radar speeding reduction cameras. The testing will take place in two-hour intervals at various times of the day, including daytime and nighttime hours. Because the flash unit associated with the camera equipment will be turned on, motorists may notice a flash when they drive by the cameras during testing. However, there will be no notices—either warnings or actual tickets—generated during this testing period. The four new stationary photo radar cameras are situated in the following locations: 4700 block of MacArthur Boulevard, NW; 2800 block of Benning Road, NE; 100 block of Michigan Avenue, NE; and 5400 block of 16th Street, NW. Following final testing, the cameras will be activated, most likely within the next few weeks. As part of the MPDC's public education campaign against speeding, only warning notices will be generated during the first 30 days that the cameras are in operation. After that, notices of infraction will be sent to aggressive speeders who are caught by the traffic safety cameras.

CCTV CAMERAS TO BE ACTIVATED FOR PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION, RIGHT TO LIFE MARCH

The MPDC will activate its Joint Operations Command Center, including the network of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras, during two upcoming events in the District of Columbia. Beginning at approximately 12 noon on Tuesday, January 18, CCTV cameras will be activated for the Presidential Inauguration and related events. Barring unforeseen circumstances, it is anticipated the cameras will be deactivated by 12 noon on Friday, January 21. Then, beginning at approximately 10 pm on Sunday, January 23, CCTV cameras will be activated for the annual "Right to Life" march marking the anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision on abortion rights. Barring unforeseen circumstances, it is anticipated the cameras will be deactivated by 10 pm on Monday, January 24. For both events, the MPDC will activate its existing network of 14 CCTV cameras as a routine measure to help police monitor for suspicious or unusual activities in the downtown DC area. The MPDC will not deploy any additional, temporary cameras outside its basic network for either event.

NEWS & NOTES

Police Accountability Agency Changes Name. Effective January 1, 2005, the Office of Citizen Complaint Review (OCCR), DC's police accountability agency, was officially renamed the Office of Police Complaints. OCCR's five-member governing body, the Citizen Complaint Review Board (CCRB), is simultaneously renamed the Police Complaints Board (PCB). The Mayor and DC Council recently enacted legislation to rename the agency in order to more clearly convey the agency's mission. The OPC will continue to provide an independent, fair and impartial forum for the review and resolution of certain police misconduct complaints filed by the public against MPDC and DC Housing Authority Police Department (DCHAPD) officers. Details on the name change are at http://occr.dc.gov/occr/cwp/view,a,1199,q,621519,occrNav_GID,1470.asp.

Get MPDC News via E-mail. Register with DC.gov to receive email notifications of all news releases issued by the MPDC. Details at <http://dc.gov/registration/register.asp>.

- ① Read the complete news release at:
<http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=3019>
- ① In 2004, DC became the first jurisdiction in North America to install a stationary photo radar camera, in the 600 block of Florida Avenue, NE. Details at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2589>
- ① Complete information about the MPDC's photo radar speeding reduction program is available at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speed.shtm>

- ① Read the complete news release at:
<http://www.mpdc.org/blue/news.asp?sid=3020>
- ① Additional information about the CCTV network, including the locations of the 14 permanent cameras, can be found at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/CCTV.shtm>

DATA BOX

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|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Homicides | as of 1/7/05 |
| ◆ 2005: 1 | |
| ◆ 2004: 4 | |
| ◆ % Change: -75.0% | |
| ◆ Closure Rate: - (0 closures) | |
| Adult Arrests | week end. 1/1/05 |
| ◆ Total: 679 | |
| ◆ Drugs: 83 | |
| ◆ Weapons: 29 | |
| ◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 15 | |
| ◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 17 | |
| Juvenile Activity | week end. 1/1/05 |
| ◆ Arrests: 29 | |
| ◆ Curfew Violations: 54 | |
| ◆ Truants: 0 | |
| Firearm Recoveries | as of 1/5/05 |
| ◆ January: 17 | |
| ◆ 2005 Total: 2,065 | |
| Traffic Fatalities | as of 1/7/05 |
| ◆ 2005: 0 | |
| ◆ 2004: 2 | |
| ◆ % Change: - | |

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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